From: Jodie Siegel
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Re: HP resolution
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:24:20 PM

Thank you for your response and explanation!

Personal referrals are the best endorsement. Please share your good experiences with friends and family!

Jodie Siegel
jodie@clear-your-space.com
clear-your-space.com
617-645-4851

On Thu, Apr 19, 2018 at 2:16 PM, Simmons, Denise <dsimmons@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Dear Ms. Siegel,
>
> Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that **this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it.** We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm (indeed, the latest I'm hearing is that the organization looking to have this sponsored may be recalculating as to when they think this can be introduced). I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.
>
> There have been numerous passionate op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. Neither scenario is accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Jodie Siegel <clearyour@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:07 PM
To: City Council; Devereux, Jan; Dennis Carlone; McGovern, Marc; Kelley, Craig
Subject: HP resolution

Dear Jan, Dennis, Craig and all the Cambridge City Councillors;

I am writing to express my opinion about the resolution up for consideration that calls for Cambridge "to end its contracts" with Hewlett-Packard (HP) until, according to the organizers, HP "ends their support for violence against and oppression of Palestinians, deportations and surveillance of immigrants in the U.S., and oppression and surveillance of those currently and formerly incarcerated in the U.S." The initiative is part of a larger global BDS movement that is, in significant part, dedicated to Israel's delegitimization as the Jewish state. Groups backing this resolution have offered other justifications for the HP boycott, but it remains clear that this effort is designed primarily to target and delegitimize Israel.

I reject this effort to single out Israel for demonization and am concerned about the city of Cambridge and its public image. This resolution will have implications beyond Hewlett-Packard and, if adopted, would tarnish the reputation of our city.

Do not abdicate your responsibilities as our elected officials to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, among all the nations, companies, and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies that are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

It would be one thing if the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world. However, in this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace in the Middle East. The establishment

of a Palestinian state is a goal we share, but it will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that deny the hard reality on the ground. There are many people who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

I urge you to reject the passage of this prejudicial and inequitable resolution.

Respectfully,

Jodie Siegel
21 Alpine St

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